

Leading a Child to Christ: **The Bridge Illustration**

A visual representation of the salvation message followed by an invitation to receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

Songs: To prepare children's hearts for this Illustration, begin with a meditative worship song about opening your heart and following Jesus. Close the Illustration with a favorite song of celebration.

Set: Two platforms that each can support three people, placed six feet apart on the ground

Props: Six-foot long cross that can be created with lumber and nails or rope, slides or a poster of the ABC Prayer of Salvation:

THE ABC PRAYER OF SALVATION

Lord Jesus,
I **A**dmit that I'm a sinner.
I **B**elieve You are the Lord
who died to take my sins away.
Please **C**ome into my heart
and I'll follow You forever.
In Jesus name, I pray. Amen!

Optional: Divide the ABC Prayer of Salvation into 3 slides and show each slide separately: Admit, Believe, Come

Leaders 1 and 2: This script is designed for two leaders with a large group of children and teachers, but can be adapted for one leader/teacher and any size group of children.

Volunteers:

One boy as Adam
One girl as Eve
One young adult male as Jesus
One older adult male as God, the Father

Leader 1

God wants our hearts to be His home.

Leader 2

That's right. God made us so we would have a very special friendship with Him. We were each created to love God with all our heart and soul and mind.

Leader 1

That's true. In the beginning, when God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, they were very close with God. We have asked (name of volunteer boy) and (name of volunteer girl) to come and pretend to be Adam and Eve to give you a picture of this amazing story of God and His people. (Place "God, the Father," "Adam" and "Eve" on a platform together.) Adam stands for all of the boys and men in the world.

Leader 2

Eve stands for all the girls and ladies in the world. The Bible says God came and walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. Can you imagine how special that must have been to spend time alone with God Himself?

Leader 1

It must have been very special; like having God, the Father as your very best friend. But one day, Adam and Eve disobeyed God's rules. That's called sin. Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes. It is choosing to do things our way instead of God's way.

Leader 2

That's right. And because God is perfect and cannot be near sin, He had to send Adam and Eve out of the garden. ("God, the Father" points and sends "Adam" and "Eve" to the other platform.)

Leader 2 continues

It's as if God lives way over there and we have to live way over here, separated from Him.

Leader 1

Between us and God is a giant sea of sin. It stands for all the wrong doings everyone does. Just like the Red Sea, it is too far for us to swim across. There is no way to get to God on our own. But God loves us so much that He made a way for us to be together with Him again.

Leader 2

("Jesus" enters with the cross.) Jesus is the way. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins by dying on the cross. That way we could be forgiven and be close to God forever. It was as if the cross became a bridge from God to us. ("Jesus" lays the cross down on the floor as a bridge between the two platforms.)

Leader 1

All we have to do is make the choice to follow Jesus. God promises that whoever believes in Him will have life forever and be close to God. Once we believe in Him, we can be close to Him now, here on earth and later, up in heaven. We become part of God's forever family. ("Jesus" offers his hand to "Eve" and then holds her hand and supports her as she walks on the cross to reach the platform Where God, the Father is standing.) See how when we choose to follow Jesus, He holds on to us and never lets us go. See how He is the way that leads us to God. (After helping "Eve" onto the platform, "Jesus" returns to offer His hand to "Adam" and delivers him safely to join "Eve" and "God, the Father.")

Leader 2

Let's thank our actors for helping us understand how Jesus made the way for us to be a part of God's forever family. (Children applaud as "Adam," "Eve," "Jesus," and "God, the Father" exit.) Jesus finished the hard part in God's plan when He died on the cross for us. He made a way for us to be with God. Jesus made our part in God's plan as simple as A-B-C.

Leader 1

(VFX: Display "Admit" slide.) Yes! All anyone has to do is to follow Jesus. To do that, you first **ADMIT** that you are a sinner—that's someone who has done wrong in God's eyes.

Leader 2

Yes, you can tell Jesus that you're sorry for your sins. (VFX: "Believe" slide.) Then tell Him that you **BELIEVE** that He is the Lord who died to take your sins away. (VFX: "Come" slide.) And finally, ask Jesus to **COME** into your heart so you can follow Him forever. You'll be a part of God's forever family.

Leader 1

If you have never asked Jesus to come into your heart, and you would like to trust Him today, we're going to give you a chance to do that now.

Leader 2

Let's all take a just a few moments now to think about Jesus. If you feel like today is the day that you want to trust and follow Him, then simply stand up and go to pray with your teacher.

Leader 1

If you have already asked Jesus to come into your heart, then you don't need to do it again, because Jesus never forgets. Just use this time to pray for others to trust Jesus.

Leader 1

Let's celebrate now and take time to thank God for making a way for all who believe in Jesus to be in His forever family. (Close with a song of praise and celebration.)

Leader 2

That's right. And, if you are not ready to make that choice, that's okay, too. Just bow your head for a moment and think about how much Jesus loves you. We'll wait just a few minutes more. (Individual children come to pray.) Thank you, for being so brave and for choosing to trust and follow Jesus. Teachers, would you lead your children in the A-B-C prayer?

<p>Lord Jesus, I Admit that I'm a sinner. I Believe You are the Lord who died to take my sins away. Please Come into my heart and I'll follow You forever. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen!</p>
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Leader 1

Amen, let's give a round of applause for what God has done here today. All of the angels in heaven celebrate with us when anyone chooses to follow Jesus and become part of God's forever family!

Leader 2

If you are thinking, I wish I had asked Jesus into my heart, know that you can do that any time with your teacher. Or, you may want to pray at home with your parent. There is never a wrong time to ask Jesus into your heart!